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THE
Life and Extraordinary Case
OF ABSTINENCE OF
ANN MOOR.

OF
Tutbury in Staffordshire,

Now living in the 51st Year of her Age,
Who has for the space of three years and a half lived
entirely without food.

INCLUDING THE REASONS THAT FIRST INDUCED
HER TO LOSE HER

APPETITE,

Attested by these two Particulars.

MR. ROBERT TAYLOR,
Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, London;

AND
MR. ALLEN,

SURGEON, TUTBURY,

Who attended the investigation, being allowed by the
Medical Men the most wonderful account of
Facts ever recorded.



LONDON

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THE Life of Ann Moor.

AT a time like the present when prejudice is so very prevalent with mankind even with people the most respectable it is no easy matter to convince them of so extraordinary an occurrence. Incredible as it may appear to those who have not before heard of it, especially those who do not live in the immediate neighbourhood of the woman, still discredit it, and remain unconvinced may rest assured that.

Mr Taylor, a respectable medical gentleman undertook to investigate the affair: he is a man of strict scrutiny: he used every means to detect her; and had she been guilty of deceit it were impossible that it could have escaped his penetration.

Ann Moor, was born at Rossington, Derbyshire, in 1761, of poor parents, whose name was Pegg, her father dead, her mother still alive. She was married at the age of 27 to James Moor, a labouring man; but soon disagreeing they separated by mutual consent without offspring.

After their separation; she went to live servant to Mr. Tuncliff, a farmer near Sudbury, by whom she had a boy and girl, the girls living with her mother and goes to school at Luthbury.

In the early part of her life she was a wretched notorious sinner, by her own confession, and the testi-

mony of her neighbours. But since the state of her abstinence, that her present state of mind is of such calmness and serenity, and her doctrinal knowledge so clear and unimpeachable, that it must be highly pleasing to every lover of religion to converse with her.

She has till lately received a small allowance from her parish; but since the truth of her present state she has been established, she has been very comfortable and every attendance procur'd for her, the number of people who visit her is astonishing and every one giving her a trifle for her children makes her more comfortable. She is tall, handsome, chearful, and talkative, it cannot be expected that any thing more than what is common, can have occurred to a woman in her situation of life. Having proceeded so far we now give an account of her fasting, &c. of which the following are the particulars:

The last 10 years she had not been one hour free from pain previous to her loss of appetite; she gives the reason as follows; she attended a person in the name of SAMUEL RANGE, who was afflicted with SCHROFULOUS ULCERS, of which complaint he died, October 30 1806. She used to wash his linen, the extreme offensiveness of the smell, was such that no person could come near it. She attended him eight month's in this situation until his death. On the 4th of November following she was necessitated to give up her work at which time she lost all desire of food as well as her ability to take it. The amount of solid food which she took from that time until March did not exceed half an ounce in a day, her drink was usually tea, without milk or cream. She thought every thing she eat or drank smelled of corruption; a scent she was accustomed to during her attendance on the young man.

In March, 1807 she was troubled with hysteric fits and the cramp at her stomach, her remedy was boiling hot gruel although it scalded her lips she felt

no pain. Roasted potatoe, was the last thing that retain'd its proper relish. On Easter Tuesday April 14, 1807. she first took to her bed. A few days prior to that she eat half a potatoe; in 14 days after she sucked half an orange, and eat a queen cake. from this time until Wednesday May the 20th she took nothing but tea without cream or sugar, she always feels a sense of distention at the stomach, which at times is so oppressive as to threaten suffocation but instantly on dispersion of wind she finds relief.

On the following day she ventured to swallow a small peice of biscuit, but was immediately vomited up again with great pain, accompanied with blood.

The latter end of June of 1807. was the last solid food she ever took, which was only a few black currants these she continued several days. From this time she gradually diminished in her quantity of liquids sometimes omitting to take any thing for two or three days together. She once changed her common tea for onion tea, thinking it might agree with her better.

In this deplorable situation, she continued in the greatest distress, during the winter of 1807. without cloaths to cover her bed, or fire to warm her room, with the snow and rain beating through the tiles.

An investigation of facts which she asserted were examined into by the medical gentlemen of Turbury, they attended her felt her pulse, and maintained it was too strong for the situation she pretended to be in. Every idle tale was laid hold of to prove her an impostor, such as she had changed her shop she used to deal at, sending different messengers for provision, eating secretly, and every way that could be thought of to establish their prejudice to the truth of the facts they wished to propegate. nay the varacity of her piety was called in question, by her neighbours until the Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, a Minister of the parish wished that such an investigation might

take place, as would satisfy every enquiring mind,

Mr. Hutchinson, applied to Mr. Taylor surgeon Lane end to wait on Ann Moor on Monday the 12th of Sept. 1803 which he did. After using very severe language in order to strike them more forcibly that he was not to be imposed on, neither by her nor two young women her accomplices, she did not shew the least confusion of guilt, her pulse was 72 in a minute. Which was rather against her, but there were many symptoms in favour of her, such as the emaciated state of her body &c.

Mr. Taylor, asked her, if she had any objection to be removed to any other place, intending to have her watched she answered "sh had not". The women said they were afraid removing her would kill her, but she contented, to avoid suspicion, as she should consider herself under the hands of M. T.

Mr. Taylor, visited her again, when he was not expected, and overheard the language, of persons regaling themselves, in Mrs. Moor's room. He immediately required to be admitted which was instantly complied with.

On his entrance he required every person present to leave the woman: her daughter was in bed with her, however she covered herself immediately and with Hannah Birch, the woman who was most constantly with her) went out into a neighbours house. When Mr. T. was left alone with the woman he examined the room, and found a balon of milk and a slice of bread, and likewise saw many crumbs, about her bed, where Birch had been eating. These circumstances operated very powerfully on the mind of Mr. T. and in the most solemn and impressive manner, addressed her on the occasion. But the serenity of her countenance, and simplicity of her manners, removed from his mind every prejudicial report spread against her, she had abundant opportunities to eat, but that she did not eat, no individual was able

to assert on any ground but his own supposition.

She having consented to be removed Mr. T. went round the town to procure a number of people that were sworn to keep watch by turns. He admitted none but such as did not believe, for he himself thought she would at last be found an impostor.

Mr. H. Jackson, took upon him the trouble of setting the watch, and there was no difficulty to procure any, people out of curiosity volunteer'd their services. Mr. Jackson was so strict with the watch that he would not suffer 2 to watch together, such as husband and wife, brother and sister, &c. were never suffered to attend the same time, nor any other person influenced in her favour.

The watch was always changed every four hours, and for further satisfaction placards were stuck up at the principal part of the town, announcing This is to maintain, that Ann Moor has taken no nourishment since Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock, and is truly and constantly watched. All persons are hereby challenged to disprove the fact & may watch for themselves, during the further period of time, shall by medical consultation be determined to establish the same.

Mr. Jackson, was a decided objector, therefore would have been happy to have discovered if she had been an impostor, that he might have had the opportunity to have brought to light her hypocrisy. Had she been a cheat what opportunity or defence she being closely watched. Day and night from Tuesday Sept. 13th, three o'clock, until Tuesday 27th, in a fifteen compleat days.

This was the fourteenth month of her total abstinence from all food and the thirteenth day without even water, she said she felt herself stronger & better than she had been for more than a week before. In the afternoon of Thursday September 29 continuing well she was removed to her former habitation,

At the time the watch began to fit, her pulse beat 68 in a minute, the day after a slight fever, pulse increased, in the first three days she swallowed an ounce of water. Mr. F. came in the room, same time, observing the misery the water gave her, by the resistance of the wind, he dissuaded her from taking any more; he wiped her mouth with a moistened rag, which he kept for that purpose. Her pulse from 72 to 82, it has been higher at particular times.

Mr. Birch, Surgeon at Barton under Needwood, visited her the first week of the watch, and pronounced in the presence of Mr. Taylor, that she was the most wonderful phenomenon he had ever witnessed. She measures round the hips 30 inches, round the loins 20 inches and a half.

She cannot endure people in the room who have taken the smallest quantity of malt or spirituous liquor as the smell of their breath makes her head giddy, yet the fumes of tobacco do not in the least affect her.

Thus it appears that she has not taken the least particle of solid food since June 1807 and has not touched any kind of liquors for more than 25 weeks.

The last visit I made her was in March 1809, I found her spirits and health, much as usual tho' her strength was much diminished, she has not power now to move her legs without assistance & all the parts of her body below the hips appear to her as if dead. I have now given all the particulars that are worthy of notice from the beginning to the present period of her existence. Such an extraordinary instance has never been before established with proofs so undeniable, there is a living fact, that continues to excite the greatest curiosity.

Signed ROBERT TAYLOR,
Member of the Royal college of
Surgeons, LONDON.

Lane-End, Staffordshire
Sept. 23, 1809.

Letter addressed to Dr. DENMAN.

"HAD Mr. Taylor told me of his intention to send an account of Ann Moor, I might have supplied you with further information.

But as he did not, and as I saw her daily, I take the liberty of sending you the following statement. When I was first informed of her situation I must confess, my suspicion that the report was not true. But I am now convinced the account of her extraordinary abstinence is perfectly true, because she could not have carried on the deception without the assistance of many other people, and that persons of understanding must have been dupes of her imposition. Her intention of deceiving is out of the question, by being closely watched for sixteen days, of which there was at least two persons always present.

Having related this, I must acknowledge my inability to explain them. It has been suggested by an anatomist that probably there is some disease in her stomach which prevents her swallowing. In Capt. Bligh's narrative of Otaheite, there are circumstances that have some affinity to the present case.

TUTBURY.

Signed,

J. ALLEN.

Decr. 8, 1808.

Lane-End Staffordshire

Sept 23, 1808.

And is now living to this present time Janry. 6th, 1813.



J. Pitts Printer.